



# House of Representatives

General Assembly

**File No. 68**

February Session, 2016

House Bill No. 5353

*House of Representatives, March 21, 2016*

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs reported through REP. HENNESSY of the 127th Dist., Chairperson of the Committee on the part of the House, that the bill ought to pass.

## **AN ACT CONCERNING REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO THE STATE VETERANS' HOME.**

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 27-103 of the general statutes is repealed and the  
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2016*):

3 (a) As used in the general statutes, except chapter 504, and except as  
4 otherwise provided: (1) "Armed forces" means the United States Army,  
5 Navy, Marine Corps, Coast Guard and Air Force and any reserve  
6 component thereof, including the Connecticut National Guard  
7 performing duty as provided in Title 32 of the United States Code; (2)  
8 "veteran" means any person honorably discharged from, or released  
9 under honorable conditions from active service in, the armed forces;  
10 (3) "service in time of war" means service of ninety or more cumulative  
11 days except, if the period of war lasted less than ninety days, "service  
12 in time of war" means service for the entire period of war, unless  
13 separated from service earlier because of a service-connected disability  
14 rated by the Veterans' Administration, during a period of war; and (4)

15 "period of war" has the same meaning as provided in 38 USC 101, as  
16 amended, except that the "Vietnam Era" means the period beginning  
17 on February 28, 1961, and ending on July 1, 1975, in all cases; and  
18 "period of war" shall include service while engaged in combat or a  
19 combat support role in Lebanon, July 1, 1958, to November 1, 1958, or  
20 September 29, 1982, to March 30, 1984; Grenada, October 25, 1983, to  
21 December 15, 1983; Operation Earnest Will, involving the escort of  
22 Kuwaiti oil tankers flying the United States flag in the Persian Gulf,  
23 July 24, 1987, to August 1, 1990; and Panama, December 20, 1989, to  
24 January 31, 1990, and shall include service during such periods with  
25 the armed forces of any government associated with the United States.

26 (b) As used in this part, "home" means the Veterans' Home  
27 maintained by the state; "hospital" means any incorporated hospital or  
28 tuberculosis sanatorium in the state and any state chronic disease  
29 hospital, or hospital for persons with mental illness, "veteran" means  
30 any veteran, [who served in time of war,] as defined in subsection (a)  
31 of this section, [and] who is a resident of this state, provided, if he or  
32 she was not a resident or resident alien of this state at the time of  
33 enlistment or induction into the armed forces, he or she shall have  
34 resided continuously in this state for at least [two years] thirty days;  
35 "eligible dependent" means any parent, wife or husband, or child of a  
36 veteran who has no adequate means of support; and "eligible family  
37 member" means any parent, brother or sister, wife or husband, or child  
38 or children under eighteen years of age, of any veteran whose  
39 cooperation in the program is integral to the treatment of the veteran.

40 Sec. 2. Subsection (c) of section 27-108 of the general statutes is  
41 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July*  
42 *1, 2016*):

43 (c) Any such veteran desiring care or treatment under the  
44 provisions of this chapter shall make application under oath to the  
45 Commissioner of Veterans' Affairs; but, if, by reason of his or her  
46 physical condition, he or she is unable to make such application, some  
47 other veteran may make such application in his or her behalf. Said

48 commissioner, or his or her designee, shall have sole power to  
49 determine whether such veteran is entitled to admission to the home  
50 or to a hospital, [and] provided said commissioner or designee shall  
51 give preference to any such veteran who has resided continuously in  
52 this state for one year or more. Any such veteran, if admitted, may,  
53 upon application to the commissioner, receive transportation at the  
54 expense of the state from his or her place of residence to the home or  
55 such hospital. No veteran so admitted shall be discharged from the  
56 home except upon the approval of the commissioner or his or her  
57 designee. The commissioner shall have sole power to remove any  
58 veteran whose care and treatment is paid for by the state from any  
59 hospital to another and shall appoint such agents as are necessary to  
60 see that veterans admitted to hospitals are receiving necessary food,  
61 clothing, care and treatment.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:

Section 1	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	27-103
Sec. 2	<i>July 1, 2016</i>	27-108(c)

**VA**            *Joint Favorable*

The following Fiscal Impact Statement and Bill Analysis are prepared for the benefit of the members of the General Assembly, solely for purposes of information, summarization and explanation and do not represent the intent of the General Assembly or either chamber thereof for any purpose. In general, fiscal impacts are based upon a variety of informational sources, including the analyst's professional knowledge. Whenever applicable, agency data is consulted as part of the analysis, however final products do not necessarily reflect an assessment from any specific department.

### ***OFA Fiscal Note***

#### ***State Impact:***

<b>Agency Affected</b>	<b>Fund-Effect</b>	<b>FY 17 \$</b>	<b>FY 18 \$</b>
Department of Veterans' Affairs	GF - Cost	96,036 to 160,060	96,036 to 160,060

Note: GF=General Fund

#### ***Municipal Impact:*** None

#### ***Explanation***

The bill results in an annual cost to the Department of Veterans' Affairs (DVA) of between \$96,036 and \$160,060 annually. It makes changes to Veterans' Home admission requirements that make it easier for veterans to gain admission. It eliminates the war service requirement, and reduces the requirement of continuous residency in the state from two years to thirty days. DVA estimates that approximately three to five applicants are denied admission each year due to this requirement. The annual cost for a veteran at the Veterans' Home is \$32,012.

#### ***The Out Years***

The annualized ongoing fiscal impact identified above would continue into the future subject to the number of veterans accepted into the Veterans' Home under the provisions of the bill, and cost inflation.

**OLR Bill Analysis****HB 5353*****AN ACT CONCERNING REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO THE STATE VETERANS' HOME.*****SUMMARY:**

This bill relaxes the criteria for admission to the state Veterans' Home by eliminating the war service requirement and reducing the residency requirement, from two continuous years to 30 continuous days, for veterans who were not state residents when they joined the armed forces. But it requires the commissioner to give admission preference to veterans who have lived continuously in the state for at least one year.

To qualify for admission to the Veterans' Home under current law, a veteran must serve for at least 90 or more cumulative days in a period of war or the entire period of a war lasting less than 90 days unless, in either case, he or she was separated from service earlier because of a Veterans Administration service-connected disability. The veteran must have been honorably discharged, or released under honorable conditions, from active service.

EFFECTIVE DATE: July 1, 2016

**COMMITTEE ACTION**

Veterans' Affairs Committee

Joint Favorable

Yea 13 Nay 0 (03/03/2016)